



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2007

FACT SHEET

FY08 Budget

LIBRARY HOURS REMAIN FUNDED AT SAME LEVELS IN SANDERS' FY08 BUDGET

Budget Maintains Hours as a Result of Reforms and Cost-Cutting

Mayor Sanders' announced today that his FY08 budget provides funding to keep hours at the City's 34 branch libraries and the Central library at the same level as the current fiscal year. In fact, once the new North University Branch Library opens later this year, the City's libraries will be open a cumulative 1,600 hours a week, an increase over the current year's hours and more than any library system in the region. Additionally, the 13 branch libraries that offer Sunday hours will again offer those hours in the coming fiscal year.

Prior to the Mayor taking office in December 2005, service levels had been reduced repeatedly over three fiscal years. These service levels are possible as a result of the cost-cutting and streamlining of city operations introduced by Mayor Sanders.

The Mayor released his FY08 budget on April 13th. It is Mayor Sanders' belief that while the City's public safety, water and wastewater departments are rightly viewed as necessities, he also feels strongly that libraries provide important educational and quality of life amenities for San Diegans.

Fulfilling his promise to reform the City's financial and managerial practices, Mayor Sanders has presented a budget that has been balanced by new efficiencies he has brought to City government.

LIBRARY HOURS WILL ACTUALLY INCREASE IN FY 08

- **Under the Mayor's FY 08 budget, library hours will remain at their FY07 levels, and will actually increase once the North University Branch Library opens later this year.**

- With the addition of the North University Branch Library, **the City's 34 branch libraries and the downtown Main Library will be open 1,600 hours a week**, more than any library system in the region.
- **The 13 libraries which currently offer Sunday hours will continue to offer these hours under the FY08 budget.**
- **The San Diego Public Library circulates more than 7 million materials—books and media—annually, more than any other library system in the region.**

THE SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTINUES TO EXPAND

The new **Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library**, which opened in December 2006, is 15,000 sq ft. It is three times the size of the old library that served these communities. The circulation has increased by 150 percent over the old location. It has 63 more parking spaces and two self-check machines, which account for over 70 percent of the circulation.

North University Community Branch Library will be opening in the fall of 2007. The Library is on a park site and also includes a recreation center, ball fields, and a tot lot. It will expend \$800,000 on its books and media collection. Green building technology will be used in the design of the building and it will be designated with the prestigious Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver Certification.

Logan Heights Branch Library will be a new 25,000 sq. ft. library located at 28th and Ocean View Blvd. between the Logan Elementary and Memorial Middle School. This is a joint use project with the San Diego Unified School District that won a California State Library Grant of \$5.4 million. The project will go out to bid soon for a general contractor and construction is scheduled to begin by late summer.

CONTINUED INVESTMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY AND PROGRAMS

- **The City continues to make investments in technology which will allow the library department to implement the next generation integrated library system.** The new system will give the public unprecedented access to information including the library's catalog, its subscription data bases, and the web. It will also enhance the efficiency of staff in a number of ways including allowing staff to order new library materials electronically. This means that books and media will get on the library shelves more quickly.
- **Another technology investment will increase staff efficiency by providing self-check machines** at the branch libraries with the highest activity levels, which will allow the public to check out library materials themselves.
- **Two programs are being implemented to assist students K-12 in completing homework assignments**, through an online tutor assistance program called "Live Homework Help" and an online search product called "School Rooms."

THE LIBRARY IS RAISING MORE DOLLARS FROM MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER BEFORE

The private sector is stepping up to help:

- **Through Donors** like Mathew Hervey. Through the Hervey Family Fund, he and his family donated \$5 million to help pay for the Point Loma/Hervey Library that opened in 2003. They continue to fund Sunday service hours. Other donors also fund Sunday hours at Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa and Sunday and extended week day hours at La Jolla/Riford Branch Library.
- **Through Carnegie Society Members**, whose estate plans benefit the San Diego Public Library. Donors like Jane Cameron, who donated \$3.2 million to support the La Jolla/Riford Branch Library.
- **Corporate Partners** – Like Qualcomm, whose funding of nearly \$200,000 helps provide literacy and youth programming at the Central and other branch libraries across the City. Target has also donated over \$50,000 over the last two years for children and family literacy programs.
- **To support the library** – logon to www.sdplf.org or email: supportmylibrary@sandiego.gov.